

WASHINGTON, D.C.—U.S. Rep. Jo Bonner (R-AL) today made the following statement after Northrop Grumman made the decision to bid on the Air Force's KC-X Aerial Tanker:

“I am extremely pleased by Northrop Grumman’s decision today to go forward and bid on the new Air Force tanker.”

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“From the initial Request for Information (RFI) 9 months ago, through the two draft RFPs, to the final RFP last week, I, along with other members of Alabama’s congressional delegation, have been in frequent communication with senior Air Force and Department of Defense officials, including Secretary of Defense Robert Gates, in an effort to ensure this tanker procurement formally begins with a fair, level playing field that does not favor one competitor over another.”

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“My commitment towards the warfighter and the taxpayer receiving the best tanker for the money remains unchanged.□ Competition is vitally important to the process and may be the only way we can guarantee that the warfighter and the taxpayer are receiving the best tanker for the money.”

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“The Mobile community has pulled together like never before to get to this point.□ Throughout the process, we have come to know two world-class industrial giants, Northrop

Grumman and EADS, and it is obvious they like what they see in our community; we will certainly be pulling for the Northrop Grumman team as hard as we can.

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Moreover, we will continue to put our best foot forward with a coordinated effort by Governor Riley, Neal Wade in the Alabama Development Office, Mayor Jones, and before him Mayor Dow, the Mobile and Baldwin County Commissions, other local elected officials, and of course, the Chamber of Commerce and the many business leaders they represent.

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The Alabama Congressional delegation and I are pleased to be a small part of this outstanding team effort.”